New Jute Policy

4480. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government has announced a new jute policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering a technology upgradation fund specifically for the jute sector; and

(d) if so, by when is the fund expected to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a): Yes Sir. The Government has announced the National Jute Policy, 2005 on 15th April, 2005. The objectives of the policy are to increase the quantity of export of jute and jute products by achieving a CAGR of 15% per annum, produce good quality jute fibre and value added diversified jute products, enhance per hectare yield, and ensure remunerative prices to the jute farmers.

The specific sectoral thrusts to achieve the aforesaid objectives are to:

(i) Enhance R&D efforts to improve yield and quality of jute fibre along with improved emphasis on technology transfer and better agronomic practices.

(ii) Accelerate the modernisation of the jute industry.

(iii) Restructure and revitalise the existing Public Sector undertakings.

(iv) Revamp the Market Support Scheme to enhance the share of exports in total production of jute goods from existing 18% to 35% in next 10 years.

(v) Achieve higher degree of jute diversification through enhanced efforts in R&D by establishing a Jute R&D Fund, a Venture capital Assistance Fund, and a full-fledged Design and Development Centre,

(vi) Restructure and revamp existing public institutions and establishing new ones to give a fresh impetus to the jute sector. This includes establishment of a Jute Board which will synchronise and synergise the integrated development of the jute sector by subsuming,

merging, and integrating the functions of various institutions currently operating in the jute sector. The Government is also contemplating to establish a National Institute on Natural Fibres and a National Jute and Jute textile Museum.

(vii) Operationalise the Jute Technology Mission expeditiously.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pathetic condition of powerloom sector

4481. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic conditions of powerloom sector in the country particularly of Tamil nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Central Assistance has been given for reviving and rejuvenating powerloom industry in this country; and

(d) whether Government has formulated any scheme for modernisation/ upgradation of powerloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Powerloom industry in the country is very vibrant. There is no deterioration in the condition of the powerloom industry in the country. The production in. powerloom sector has been steadily increasing over the years and in 2004-05 the powerloom sector has produced 28526 million sqr. mtr. (provisional) of cloth which accounts for 63% of the total cloth production of the country. There has also been a steady increase in the number of looms installed in the state of Tamil Nadu as shown below:

Year	No. of Looms registered	Employment (Anticipated)
2002-03	320196	800490
2003-04	334372	835930
2004-05	365797	914493